



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 375

Hearing Date: March 12, 2007

Committee On: Education

Introducer(s): (Raikes)

Title: Rename and change the Minority Scholarship Program Act

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

X Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Adams, Avery, Burling, Howard, Johnson, Kopplin, and Raikes
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Ashford

Proponents:

Senator Ron Raikes
Gene Crump
Dick Davis

Representing:

Introducer
University of Nebraska
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 375 would change the name of the Minority Scholarship Program Act to the Student Diversity Scholarship Program Act and would modify the mission to provide scholarships for students from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, rather than to provide scholarships to students from specific racial groups.

Section 85-9,177 would be amended by changing the name of the Minority Scholarship Program Act to the Student Diversity Scholarship Program Act.

Section 85-9,178 would replace the specific categories of Black, American Indian, and Hispanic minority students with students from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds as students that find financial requirements as a major obstacle to postsecondary education.

An additional finding was added to provide that the State has a compelling interest in attaining greater diversity in the racial, ethnic, and cultural makeup of the student bodies at the University, state colleges, and community colleges. Intent language for the program to be a temporary measure to eliminate statistical disparities based on specific races would be deleted. Ethnic and cultural diversity are added to racial diversity as the purpose of the program.

Provisions for eligibility based on race would be replaced with a statement that the program be designed and implemented to achieve greater racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity to fulfill the described compelling state interest.

Section 85-9,179 would be amended to harmonize with the changes in other sections.

Section 85-9,180 would be amended to recognize that funds appropriated for fiscal years before 2007-08 would be for the Minority Scholarship Act and that funds appropriated for 2007-08 and each year thereafter would be for the Student Diversity Scholarship Program Act. Obsolete language would also be eliminated.

Section 85-9,181 would be amended to harmonize with the name change.

Section 85-9,182 would be amended to harmonize with the name change and to require awards to be consistent with the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Nebraska.

The measure contains an emergency clause and the operative date would be July 1, 2007.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson